United Nations ST/IC/2001/31

Secretariat

20 April 2001

Information circular*

To: Members of the staff at Headquarters

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management

Subject: **United Nations Staff Relief Committee for the Victims of the Earthquakes in El Salvador and India**

1. The disastrous earthquakes which recently hit El Salvador twice (13 January and 13 February 2001) and the western province of Gujarat in India (26 January 2001) have claimed the lives of thousands of people. A large number of them have been severely injured and rendered homeless. These disasters have affected the economy and fragile environment of these countries, worsening pre-existing conditions of vulnerability. According to estimates, the cost of immediate relief and rehabilitation in the two countries will run into hundreds of millions of dollars. The emergency and reconstruction needs exceed the capacity of national and local authorities.

2. International relief agencies have responded generously. However, in the wake of the disaster and its aftershocks, millions of people will continue to depend on outside aid for several months to come. With the approval of the Secretary-General, the Staff Committee has established the United Nations Staff Relief Committee for the Victims of the Earthquakes in El Salvador and India to appeal for funds to alleviate the suffering of the victims. The Committee is composed of Diana Guillen, Chairperson, Rajinder Kumar, Co-Chairperson, Sonia Burgos, Coordinator, and Christiane Leboeuf, Treasurer.

3. Many staff members have already sent donations in support of this cause through other relief organizations. This current appeal is being launched so that other staff members who have inquired about the humanitarian assistance drive can now contribute. Collections of contributions will take place on 30 April and 16 May 2001. An account has been established by the Treasurer of the Staff Committee at the United Nations Federal Credit Union, where staff can make direct deposits until 16 May 2001 to the United Nations Staff Relief Committee for the Victims of the Earthquakes in El Salvador and India, Account No. 170212.

* Expiration date of the present circular: 31 May 2001.

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4. Contributions may also be made by cheque, payable to the "United Nations Staff Relief Committee for El Salvador and India" and addressed to the Treasurer, Christiane Leboeuf, Room S-0525.

5. Staff who are overseas and would like to contribute can do so by sending a wire transfer to the account number given above, using ABA# 226078609.

6. Contributions will be donated to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for disbursement.